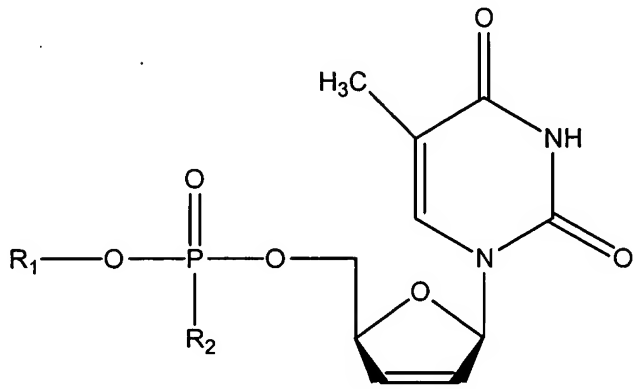
1. (Amended) A method for providing a source of d4T having an extended half-life in a mammal by administering an effective amount of a compound of Formula I:

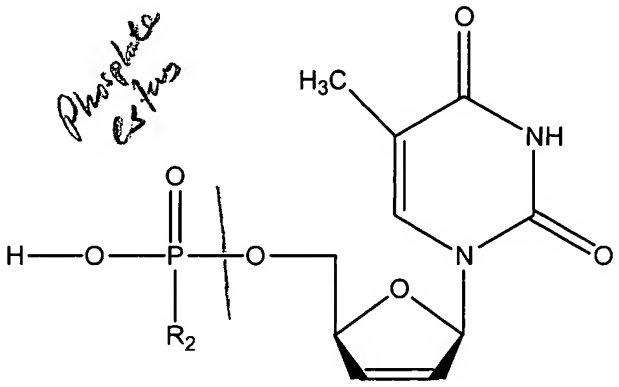


Formula I

where R_1 is an aryl group substituted with an electron withdrawing group and R_2 is an amino acid residue or an ester of the amino acid residue, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the electron-withdrawing group is halo.

10. (Amended) A method for providing a source of d4T having an extended half-life in a mammal by administering an effective amount of a compound of Formula IV:



Formula IV

where R_2 is an amino acid residue or an ester of the amino acid residue, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

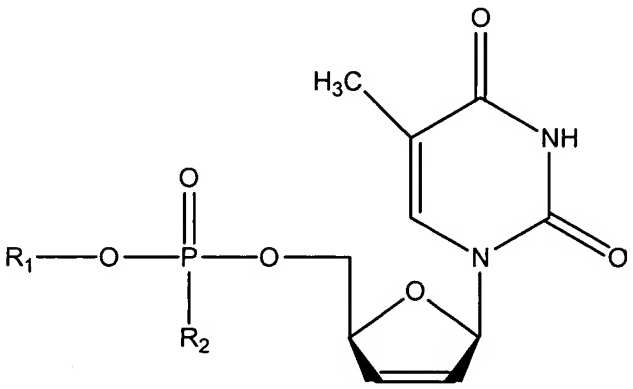
Please add new claims 14 to 44 as follows.

14. (New) A method for extending the half-life of a compound of formula I in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal:

an esterase inhibitor; and

a compound of formula I;

wherein the compound of formula I is:



(I)

where R_1 is an aryl group substituted with an electron withdrawing group and R_2 is an amino acid residue or an ester of the amino acid residue, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the aryl group is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, and anthryl.

16. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the aryl group is phenyl.

17. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the electron-withdrawing group is halo.

18. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein R_1 is para-bromophenyl.

19. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein R_2 is an α-amino acid or ester thereof.

20. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein R_2 is $-NHCH(CH_3)COOCH_3$.

21. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein R_1 is para-bromophenyl and R_2 is $-NHCH(CH_3)COOCH_3$.

22. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the compound of formula I is administered intraveneously.

23. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the compound of formula I is administered orally.

24. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the esterase inhibitor is selected from the group of an inhibitor of cholinesterase, an inhibitor of carboxylesterase, or a combination thereof.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the inhibitor of cholinesterase is paraoxon.

26. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the inhibitor of cholinesterase is phyostigmine.

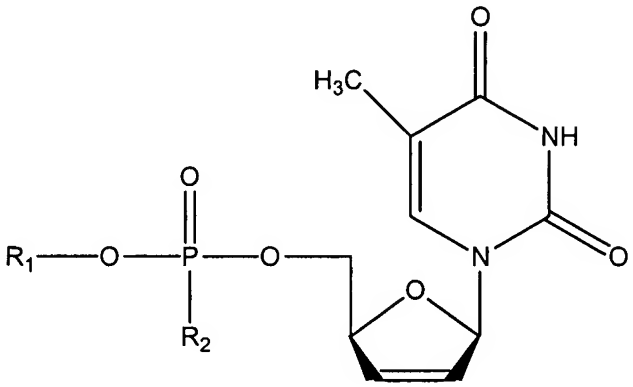
27. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the inhibitor of cholinesterase is selected from paraoxon and phyostigmine.

28. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the compound of formula I and the esterase inhibitor are administered concurrently.

29. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the compound of formula I and the esterase inhibitor are administered in a single dosage form.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the a single dosage form is a parenteral dosage form.

31. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising:
an esterase inhibitor; and
a compound of formula I:



(I)

where R_1 is an aryl group substituted with an electron withdrawing group and R_2 is an amino acid residue or an ester of the amino acid residue, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; the method; and
a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

32. (New) The composition of claim 31, wherein the aryl group is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, and anthryl.

33. (New) The composition of claim 31, wherein the aryl group is phenyl.

34. (New) The composition of claim 31, wherein the electron-withdrawing group is halo.

35. (New) The composition of claim 31, wherein R_1 is para-bromophenyl.

36. (New) The composition of claim 31, wherein R_2 is an α-amino acid or ester thereof.

37. (New) The composition of claim 31, wherein R_2 is -$NHCH(CH_3)COOCH_3$.

38. (New) The composition of claim 31, wherein R_1 is para-bromophenyl and R_2 is -$NHCH(CH_3)COOCH_3$.

39. (New) The composition of claim 31, wherein the esterase inhibitor is selected from the group of an inhibitor of cholinesterase, an inhibitor of carboxylesterase, or a combination thereof.

40. (New) The composition of claim 39, wherein the inhibitor of cholinesterase is paraoxon.

41. (New) The composition of claim 39, wherein the inhibitor of cholinesterase is phyostigmine.

42. (New) The composition of claim 38, wherein the inhibitor of cholinesterase is selected from paraoxon and phyostigmine.

43. (New) The composition of claim 31, wherein the composition is adapted for intravenous administration.

44. (New) The composition of claim 31, wherein the composition is adapted for intravenous administration.